

The Task Force recommended that:

6. **The NC Division of Public Health lead the effort to expand the availability and accessibility of culturally appropriate maternity services, family planning, and teen pregnancy prevention services to Latinos across the state.**
 - **These efforts may include, but not be limited to, assisting local health departments in maximizing federal funds to pay for prenatal care, expanding the availability of group prenatal projects, expanding availability of targeted family planning programs offering culturally appropriate services, and targeting some of the available teen pregnancy prevention funds to Latino youth.**
 - **In addition, the NC General Assembly should appropriate additional funds to expanding the availability and accessibility of culturally appropriate maternity services, family planning, and teen pregnancy prevention services to Latinos across the state.**

Additional funds are critically important to expand the availability and accessibility of culturally appropriate maternity, family planning, and teen pregnancy prevention services. However, even in the absence of new funds, the Division of Public Health can take steps to improve the accessibility of existing programs. Specifically, the Division can:

Maternity Services:

- Provide technical assistance to local health departments and other community providers to enable them to develop Centering programs (group prenatal care projects), using either nurse midwives or doctors to provide clinical services.
- Provide technical assistance to local health departments and community-based providers to ensure that they maximize Medicaid funds through use of presumptive eligibility. One way to assist in this effort is to encourage DSS to outstation eligibility workers to health departments and community clinics that serve large Latino populations, or to allow pregnant women to apply through the mail.
- Ensure that any state funded folic acid campaign targets Latinas as well as other populations.
- Develop other methods to make folic acid more accessible to the Latina population, including providing folic acid multi-vitamins directly to low-income women, and working with the Department of Public Instruction to make sure that school meals include folic acid.

Family planning:

- Expand the targeted Latino community clinic-based family planning projects to other sites across the state.